

Message Text

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46

ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-07 AGRE-00 /016 W

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R 061554Z DEC 76

FM AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU

TO DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE WASHDC

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 2819

UNCLAS OUAGADOUGOU 3881

FOR: MAJOR PROJECTS DIVISION

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: BENC, BAGB, UV

SUBJ: MAJOR PROJECT: EXPANSION OF VOLTAN SUGAR INDUSTRY

REF: STATE 283525

1. ACCORDING TO THE DIRECTOR OF THE BUREAU OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT, INNOCENT BAKYONO, A SERIES OF EXPANSION OF THE VOLTAN SUGAR INDUSTRY ARE IN PROGRESS, CONTRACTS HAVE ALREADY BEEN AWARDED FOR THE EXPANSION OF THE SUGAR COMPLEX NEAR BANFORA, ALTHOUGH HE DID NOT REVEAL THE COMPANIES INVOLVED. AN OPEN CALL FOR BIDS WAS PRESUMABLY RULED OUT WHEN THE EUROPEAN INVESTMENT BANK AGREED TO MAKE THE \$4.5 MILLION LOAN AT 2 PCT INTEREST.

2. A MUCH LARGER EXPANSION PROJECT IS NOW BEING PLANNED. THE GOUV WILL ESTABLISH A SEPARATE COMPANY, THE SOUROU SUGAR COMPANY, WHICH WILL BUILD A COMPLEX ALONG THE SOUROU RIVER IN NORTH-WESTERN UPPER VOLTA. THE GOUV WILL AGAIN BE THE MAJORITY STOCKHOLDER AND IS SEEKING OUTSIDE PARTICIPATION (PERHAPS 10 TO 30 PER CENT) AND ASSISTANCE. THE SOUROU PROJECT WILL INCLUDE 10,000 HECTARES OF SUGAR CANE COMPARED WITH 3,500 HECTARES AT THE EXPANDED BANFORA COMPLEX.

3. THE SOUROU COMPLEX SHOULD BE OPERATIONAL BY 1979. A THIRD COMPLEX, TO BEGIN OPERATIONS IN 1981, IS ALSO BEING PLANNED.

4. EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST SHOULD BE ADDRESSED TO: LE MINISTRE DU COMMERCE, DU DEVELOPPMENT IDUSTRIEL, ET DES MINES,
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B.P. 365, OUAGADOUGOU, UPPER VOLTA.GRAHAM

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